· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.25 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 74/NO. 7 FEBRUARY 22, 2010

INSIDE

Malcolm X was drawn to Cuban Revolution

—PAGE 6

Long-term joblessness reaches new high

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The duration of unemployment reached an all-time high in January—an average of nearly seven months—and the official unemployment rate for the month is 9.7 percent. The fact this rate is down 0.3 percent from December has amplified claims the economic recovery is under way.

The latest employment figures are "signs of the beginning of recovery," stated Christina Romer, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, the day the report was released.

The decline in January reflects a seasonal adjustment, while the number actually counted as unemployed rose by 1.4 million. Pronouncements of economic recovery are little encouragement for these workers, as well as those with jobs, many of whom are worried the ax is about to fall.

Some 3,500 employees at St. Vincent's Hospital, a major medical facility in New York City, face an uncertain future as hospital owners are threatening to close it. Verizon is

Continued on page 9

U.S. Black farmers demand redress

BY NED MEASEL

WASHINGTON—Black farmers are holding rallies in seven southern states and the District of Columbia February 6–15 to demand government action to compensate farmers for discrimination received at the hands of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over the years.

The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) is organizing the actions. The final rally will take place here February 15 at 11:00 a.m. outside the USDA building, located on the National Mall at Jefferson Drive between 12th and 14th streets.

In 1999 Black farmers won a settlement in the historic *Pigford v. Glickman* class-action lawsuit. The suit challenged the USDA's discriminatory treatment of Black farmers by denying equal access to funding and other services received by similarly situated white farmers. The discrimination forced thousands of Black farmers off their land.

The court ordered the government agency to give claimants a $50,000 tax-exempt payment, debt forgiveness, and

Continued on page 9

Washington begins new Afghan offensive

Steps up military operations in Pakistan



Reuters

Afghan farmers leave southern town of Marjah and surrounding areas February 7 as U.S., British, and Afghan troops prepare assault on Taliban-held town in Helmand Province.

BY SETH GALINSKY

As we go to press, U.S., British, and Afghan troops are preparing to invade Marjah, the last Taliban-held town in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan. The offensive was publicized well in advance in the hope that Taliban forces will abandon the town without much of a fight.

U.S. and British forces have been conducting "shaping operations," ground and helicopter attacks, in the surrounding area for weeks. U.S. aircraft dropped leaflets on this farm town of 80,000 to convince residents and Taliban to leave before the coalition troops attack.

According to London's *Sunday Times*, U.S. and British special forces have also been carrying out assassinations of Taliban leaders in the town. U.S. commanders say that a large Afghan army contingent will join the offensive.

Those with means are leaving the area. "Lots of aircraft were flying over and lots of forces were moving

Continued on page 9

Medical brigades from Cuba offer long-term care in Haiti

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In response to the critical need for medical treatment following the January 12 earthquake, seven young doctors from the United States have arrived in Haiti to work alongside the Cuban medical mission there. They are graduates of the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba (ELAM). All women, they come from New York, Texas, Minnesota, and California.

"These dedicated and skilled young doctors are ready to serve," said Rev. Lucius Walker, executive director of IFCO, which administers the U.S. student scholarship program for ELAM. "They received their M.D. degrees in Cuba and they are uniquely prepared for the multiple challenges of this urgent mission."

Cuban medical personnel, who have been giving free service in Haiti for more than 10 years, were the first to provide aid after the earthquake struck. To date Cuban doctors have seen more than 50,000 patients and performed 3,400

Continued on page 7



Kara Fox/IFCO Pastors for Peace

Melissa Mitchell, left, and Nyla Manning, U.S. graduates of Cuban medical school, prepare for trip to Haiti to join Cuban doctors treating Haitian earthquake victims.

'Militant has consistent point of view that opens your eyes'

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Supporters of the *Militant* are organizing for a smashing success as we head into the final stretch of the drive to win 375 long-term readers of the paper from among new and previous subscribers. At the end of the third week of the four-week drive, 264 readers have renewed their subscriptions.

A reflection of the wide political interest in revolutionary politics is that many have also taken advantage of the special offer to buy *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* for just $10 with their subscription. The majority of areas are already at 80 percent or higher of their targets, making it possible to go well over the international goal.

"Unlike other newspapers, the *Militant* has a consistent point of view which opens your eyes," a 37-year-old Black coworker at a small sewing plant in Oakland, California, told Eric Simpson, explaining why he was renewing his subscription. He is among the six workers in the plant who have also bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power.*

Simpson wrote to the *Militant* that workers at his plant have been particularly receptive to the discussions about the working-class politics presented in the paper and in the new book. "The fact that our hours have been cut 10 percent and our wages have been frozen have something to do with their interest," he said.

A further report from supporters of

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

Florida farm workers jobless after crops freeze

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

IMMOKALEE, Florida—At this time of year, Immokalee is usually a very busy town. Packinghouses are working long hours and thousands of farm workers are here for the winter harvest of tomatoes.

This year Immokalee is filled with idle workers. Most have no work or work only one or two days a week. Some are surviving doing yard sales.

The January 11 eight-hour deep freeze that hit Florida destroyed 70 percent of the tomato crop in this area. An estimated $147 million was lost on crops of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, green beans, sweet corn, squash, and cucumbers. Sixty of the 67 counties in the state have been declared primary natural disaster areas.

Charitable Louis Charles and Meliese Previlus were resting at their home in Farm Worker Village, a state-owned housing community here. They both emigrated from Haiti in the 1980s. Previlus's last check was three weeks ago for only two hours of work. Louis Charles said that she had worked only 16 hours last week at the packing plant and gets no unemployment compensation.

"The last time it was this bad was when Wilma hit," Louis Charles said, referring to the 2005 hurricane. They pointed to the surrounding empty houses. "With the poverty wages that the industry has paid for over 30 years, the situation becomes desperate when something like this happens," Gerardo Reyes, a farm worker and staff member with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, told the *Militant*. "The problem can't be solved with charity, even though it is necessary. The solution is to get higher wages."

Agriculture is the most important Florida export, with more than 750,000 people relying on it for work, from truck drivers to farm workers. The state provides 70 percent of the country's winter fruits and vegetables.

"People move in with their family or friends because they can't pay the rent," said Dellva Ifoquit, a laid-off restaurant worker and also a resident at the farm worker village. "The houses here are state-owned but people are still being evicted."

Many Haitian workers have no work permits. After the January 12 earthquake in Haiti the Obama administration approved Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians. This temporarily halts deportations of Haitians without papers. It allows them to stay in the United States for 18 months and apply for work permits. Those arriving after January 12 will be deported. It costs almost $500 to register for TPS, which many don't have. Returning to earthquake-ravaged Haiti is not an alternative.

Houston janitors prepare contract fight



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

HOUSTON—Some 200 janitors, members of Local 1 of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), met here January 30 to discuss their fight for a contract with six cleaning companies.

About 3,200 workers in the Houston area are affected by the dispute. The janitors explained they are fighting for a pay raise and to keep their hours guarantee, as well as for improved health-care benefits. A 2006 contract included pay raises from a pre-union $5.30 an hour to the current $7.75, as well as a guarantee of six hours of work a day, up from four.

On Nov. 16, 2006, Houston cops on horseback attacked striking janitors, arresting 44 unionists and their supporters. The attack, designed to bolster the companies, backfired. Support for the janitors increased and they won a three-year contract the following week.

"We have to be prepared to do what we did in 2006 with rallies and marches and hard work," said Mercedes Herrera, a Local 1 janitor who spoke at the meeting.

—JACQUIE HENDERSON

Plaintiff seeks to subpoena CPUSA in anti-Cuba suit

BY PAUL MAILHOT

A plaintiff who obtained a $50 million judgment against the government of Cuba in a U.S. court is claiming the right to question the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) about its relations with the Cuban government and various Cuban institutions and individuals, reported a January 17 article in the *People's World*.

The *People's World*, an online periodical reflecting the views of the CPUSA, explains that the case involves a civil suit filed in Miami in 2005 by Nilo Jerez, who alleged he had been mistreated during a three-month stay in a Cuban mental hospital in the 1970s. Jerez won the case by default. The Cuban government refused to participate in the legal proceedings, since it maintains U.S. courts have no legal jurisdiction over events in Cuba.

The *People's World* article says the CPUSA is prepared to "file a motion to quash a subpoena that would require the party to produce financial and political documents. The legal filings also call for the party to produce a representative to give a deposition" on its relationships with entities in Cuba.

The Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act passed under the William Clinton administration cleared the way for private citizens to sue foreign governments for so-called terrorist acts and triggered a flurry of lawsuits—and judgments—against Cuba.

In 2006 a judge in New York ordered payment of $91 million from frozen Cuban bank accounts to the families of two men—one of whom was a CIA pilot. Both died in Cuba as a result of their participation in the failed U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion of the island in 1961.



Los Angeles unemployed line up for job fair last November.

The Militant

Vol. 74/No. 7

Closing news date: February 10, 2010

Editor: Sam Manuel

Managing Editor: Martín Koppel

Business Manager: Angel Lariscy

Editorial volunteers: Tom Baumann, Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Cindy Jaquith, Ben Joyce, Omari Musa, Doug Nelson, Emily Paul, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams

Published weekly except for one week in January and one week in July.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899 **Fax:** (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send $85, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian $45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £75 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Iran: February rallies to test gov't and opposition

BY CINDY JAQUITH

February 10—As the *Militant* goes to press, hundreds of thousands in Iran are preparing to join demonstrations February 11, the anniversary of the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed monarch known as the shah. Forces calling for freedom of speech and assembly, the right to form political parties, equality for women, and other rights are urging their supporters to demonstrate in large numbers. The government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is simultaneously seeking to mobilize its backers to outnumber them.

Meanwhile, U.S. secretary of state Robert Gates threatened more sanctions against Iran in "weeks, not months" following Tehran's announcement it was starting to enrich uranium to 20 percent for its nuclear program.

Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, who both challenged Ahmadinejad in last June's presidential elections, have called for supporters marching February 11 to call on the government to "release the prisoners of conscience, lift press bans, allow banned political party offices to reopen, and hold free and fair elections."

A coalition calling itself the Coordinating Council of Reform Front, made up of 17 political groups and parties that oppose Ahmadinejad, subsequently put out its own call for supporters of democratic rights to march February 11.

The call, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, said, "A large number of those who were celebrating 31 years ago their contribution to the triumph of the Islamic Revolution have unfortunately been arrested or pushed into isolation." If the government does not "respect basic freedoms and civil rights," it warned, "people's demands and political differences will be followed up in the streets."

Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami, a leader of Friday prayers in Tehran and a fervent backer of Ahmadinejad, issued a statement rejecting the idea there could be any compromise with the Mousavi forces. "Today we have only two fronts and no third front is recognized," he said. "The first front brings together the revolution and the people. The second front regroups the United States, Britain, Zionists, hypocrites, monarchists, communists, fugitive singers, and dancers."

The Tehran commander of the Pasdaran, the main military force in Iran, warned that "any voice or color other than the voice of the Islamic Revolution will be pushed aside, and if a minority makes such an attempt, it will be firmly confronted."

Executions

To back up the threat, two prisoners, supporters of a group trying to restore the U.S.-backed monarchy, were executed January 28. According to Press TV, however, they were not part of the opposition demonstrations. They had been in jail since 2008 on charges of carrying out a bombing. Mousavi opposed the executions, stating they were aimed at intimidating prodemocracy protesters.

Nine others have received death sentences for being "enemies of god" because of their role in opposition demonstrations. They have appealed. The government says they are members of the Mojahedin Khalq Organization, a proimperialist current that took up arms against the government after the 1979 revolution. It is isolated in Iran.

Just days before the February 11 demonstrations, Iran's Press TV reported the government had arrested seven people it claimed were plotting to disrupt official anniversary commemorations. It said two were CIA agents and several worked for Radio Farda, a U.S. government–sponsored radio station that transmits in Farsi to Iran.

The Iranian capitalist class remains very divided in the face of the groundswell of protests for greater democracy in the past months. Some bourgeois political figures, like Mousavi, have concluded that a loosening of restrictions on democratic rights is necessary to maintain the stability of the capitalist government, particularly as the world economic depression drives the living conditions of Iranian working people ever lower. He speaks for the substantial layer of ruling-class forces who also look forward to an end to trade and financial sanctions on Iran and a rapprochement with the United States.



Youth demonstrate in Tehran for more freedoms during run-up to last June's presidential elections. Ruling class remains divided on how to respond to these demands.

In recent weeks a layer of bourgeois politicians has begun to speak out against "extremism" of left and right, seeking to find some compromise. In a speech to police chiefs January 7, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Ali Larijani, said, "We should not call anyone who has different views a dissident and a hypocrite." He called for televised debates between the contending factions as a way to resolve the crisis.

Iran nuclear program

On February 7 Ahmadinejad ordered Iran's nuclear facilities to begin enriching uranium to 20 percent for use in a medical research reactor. Currently, Tehran enriches uranium to only 3.5 percent.

The imperialist governments have demanded Tehran cease all uranium enrichment, saying it could be used to eventually produce a nuclear weapon, which requires enrichment of 90 percent. Tehran states its nuclear program is for peaceful generation of energy only.

While Washington wants new UN sanctions against Iran to try to force it to end enrichment, the Foreign Ministry of China, which holds veto power in the Security Council, said February 9 it favors continuing negotiations at this time.

In addition to sanctions, Washington is stepping up military pressure against Iran. Gen. David Petraeus said the U.S. government has offered Patriot missiles to four countries in the Persian Gulf to counter Iranian missiles. "Military officials said that the countries that accepted the missiles were Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait," reported the January 31 *New York Times*. "Saudi Arabia and Israel have long had similar equipment of their own."

Petraeus said Washington now also deploys Aegis cruisers permanently in the Gulf, capable of intercepting medium-range missiles from Iran.

Rio Tinto miners fight lockout in California

BY BILL ARTH
AND DEAN HAZLEWOOD

BORON, California, February 6—Hundreds of union members attended a rally and meeting at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) hall today. Nearly 600 members of Local 30 were locked out by Rio Tinto January 31 at the giant open pit borax mine and processing facility here.

Workers reporting for the 7:00 a.m. shift were blocked by managers and security guards reinforced by a phalanx of deputy sheriffs clad in riot gear. They were given their final paychecks, including accrued vacation pay.

The day before the lockout, ILWU Local 30 members rejected company demands that amount to a sweeping attack on the union. "After hours of analyzing and evaluating the contract, every one of the 500 workers at the meeting voted no," union spokesman Craig Merrilees told the *Los Angeles Times*. The contract expired November 4.

A union fact sheet says that among company demands are "the power to convert full-time jobs, whenever management wants, into part-time positions," the authority to arbitrarily "reduce employee pay" and the ability to "declare entire sections of the plant to be 'nonunion' areas where employees could be fired at any time, for any reason, or for no reason at all."

"I think the company had the impression we were going to roll over and let them feed us the poison," Jim Freeman, 54, who has worked at the mine for 31 years, told the *Times.*

Signs all over town say, "We support the Borax miners. An injury to one is an injury to all."

The workers have set up a round-the-clock picket at the mine gate. Rio Tinto bused in three busloads of scabs to take over operations along with management personnel on the first day of the lockout.

Boron, a town of 2,000 in the Mojave Desert, is about 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The Rio Tinto mine is the second-largest borax mine in the world, producing about 40 percent of the world's refined borates, used in many products from high-definition TVs to laundry detergent.

Company officials state they need contract changes to stay competitive in the global market. ILWU Local 30 executive director Jeri Lee said mine workers earn $18 to $29.30 per hour. Company spokesperson Susan Keefe said the company's primary competitor pays mine workers in Turkey about $9.70 per hour.

The ILWU's paper the *Dispatcher* reported that the union invited leaders of the Mine Workers' Union of Turkey to sit in at negotiations with the company on Local 30's contract. "Rio Tinto officials insulted the Turks," the paper said, "stormed out of the meeting, and accused Local 30 of hosting 'competitors from Turkey.'"

A contingent from ILWU Local 20 in Wilmington, which organizes workers at the Rio Tinto facility in the Los Angeles area, also attended the meeting today. A range of activities seeking solidarity are planned along with a weekly march by workers from the union hall to the plant gate.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

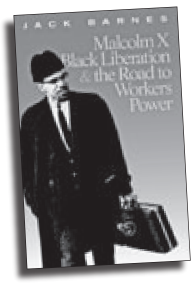
San Francisco

In Defense of Cuba's Socialist Revolution: An Answer to the Charge that Revolution Is 'Racist.' Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 19. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Expanding Capitalist Economic Crisis in Greece, Spain, and Portugal: Stakes for Working Class. Speaker: Seth Galinsky, SWP. Fri., Feb. 19, 8 p.m. *307 W. 36 St., 10th floor (near 8th Ave.). Tel.: 212-736-2540.*



Sell the book on 'workers power'

Twin Cities

"I wanted to get the book because I knew about Malcolm X, that he was militant," said Thomas Mitchell, one of several Black co-workers who have bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* at the Dakota Premium meatpacking plant in South St. Paul. "We need to be more like Malcolm X in our workplaces."

Nine workers at the plant, which is organized by Local 789 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, have picked up copies of Pathfinder's latest book over the past several weeks. Mitchell, along with a few others, said they would like to get together and discuss some of the articles in the book.

"I don't read much but this book looks interesting. I'll also make sure to show it to people in my family, who I know would like to read it," said Dave Vasquez, who works on the kill floor and is a shop steward.

"I've only read a little bit of the book, but I found the photos speak for themselves," said Henry Blue, who works opening cow paunches. "I'm looking forward to reading more."

Most of those buying the book have also renewed their subscriptions, or have become new subscribers, to the *Militant*.

—*Frank Forrestal*

Miami

Woosler Delisfort, a young Haitian American who had gotten the *Militant* at the Miami Book Fair, renewed his subscription and purchased *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. He explained, "Six years ago I looked to the Democratic Party. Now I see it as the same as the Republicans. They are both for big corporations, for money. That's not for me. This book looks great. I'm going to study it."

Last week six renewals to the *Militant* were sold here. Five of the subscribers also got *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. One of our distributors sold three renewals to his coworkers with the special offer on the book for only $10. He also got another coworker to subscribe for the first time and take advantage of this offer.

—*Rollande Girard*

Philadelphia

Three Black workers at a small military gloves manufacturing plant in Delaware bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* along with one new *Militant* subscription and two renewals. The new subscriber said, "This is what I've been looking for and I want to find out more!"

Another worker who renewed her subscription has started reading the new book. She said it has made her more interested in programs sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum here. Although she wanted to start bringing the *Militant* into work and read it on her breaks, she said, "The paper makes me too mad to read at work." She explained the political content of the *Militant* puts our own working conditions and treatment by the bosses in a sharper light.

—*Brian Nevins and Janet Post*



Militant/Mary Martin

Militant **supporter Clay Dennison, left, talks to another worker about *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* at socialist literature table in Seattle February 6.**

New York

Sales of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* have picked up here. More than 30 have been sold with an introductory subscription or renewal. A highlight over the last week has been purchases by four students at Hunter College.

"I've never seen anything put together like this before," said Sharita Sharmin. She was referring to the book's description of how Black workers have been in the vanguard of the major social struggles in the United States for the last two centuries. She bought the book along with *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, which describes the fraud of education reform under capitalism.

Hiro Bush, who bought the book the week before, told the *Militant* he wanted to read it after finishing the Pathfinder pamphlet *Two Speeches by Malcolm X*. "I was hungry for more information on the evolution of Malcolm X," he said. But before Bush could get started he said his uncle who was visiting from Atlanta took his copy, so now he has to buy another one for himself.

—*Tom Baumann*

'Consistent point of view'

Continued from front page

the *Militant* in San Francisco explains they are combining efforts to meet current and former subscribers about renewing with other sales to meet workers interested in the paper.

Subscription Renewal Drive

Jan. 16 – Feb. 17, 2010

Week 3

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Miami	**20**	**20**	**100%**
New York	**45**	**45**	**100%**
Boston	**10**	**9**	**90%**
Seattle	**16**	**14**	**88%**
Chicago	**20**	**16**	**80%**
San Francisco	**20**	**16**	**80%**
Twin Cities, MN	**25**	**19**	**76%**
Houston	**12**	**9**	**75%**
Washington, D.C.	25	17	68%
Atlanta	18	12	67%
Los Angeles	25	16	64%
Philadelphia	25	8	32%
Des Moines, IA	20	6	30%
Other U.S.		2	
U.S. Total	281	209	74%
CANADA	**20**	**15**	**75%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	**8**	**7**	**88%**
London	**12**	**10**	**83%**
UK Total	**20**	**17**	**85%**
AUSTRALIA	15	6	40%
NEW ZEALAND	**10**	**9**	**90%**
SWEDEN	**8**	**8**	**100%**
Total	**354**	**264**	**70%**
Should be	**375**	**281**	**75%**

Workers at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 hall by Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco welcomed *Militant* salespeople this week. Nine workers among this predominantly Black workforce picked up copies of the paper and two longshore workers purchased the new Pathfinder book. One unionist suggested it would be a good title for the local to keep in its library, a suggestion the sales team promised to follow up on.

With only one week left in the drive, every area can map out a day-by-day effort to reach the remaining introductory subscribers from the fall who should be asked to become long-term regular readers of the paper. The most effective way to secure renewals to the paper is to organize for a house visit so that supporters of the *Militant* can have a discussion about the working-class politics of the paper, what subscribers liked best about our coverage, and to learn what political issues they are interested in and what struggles they have been involved in.

All subscription renewals that arrive by Wednesday, February 17, will be counted.

Montreal newspaper workers press fight against media giant

BY ANNETTE KOURI

MONTREAL—A successful concert January 24 marked the one-year anniversary of the fight of 253 locked-out office and editorial workers at the *Journal de Montréal,* one of three French-language dailies in this city. The 700 attendees filled the concert hall to capacity. Popular artists expressed their solidarity with the fight through songs and comedy routines.

The artists were appreciated as well because by taking on Quebecor Media—the owners of the *Journal de Montréal*—they were taking on the biggest player in the media industry in Quebec and thereby potentially jeopardizing their ability to get work.

Concertgoers gave a standing ovation to Raynald Leblanc, president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) local at the *Journal de Montréal.* The ovation was triggered when Leblanc ended his comments by affirming the workers' determination to continue the fight.

Leblanc welcomed the presence of workers from the *Journal de Québec* who had waged a successful fight against a 16-month lockout by Quebecor Media. He also welcomed workers from *Le Réveil*, who since March 2009 have also been locked-out by the same bosses. He thanked workers from a spectrum of different unions in Quebec for coming and bringing their solidarity.

Claudette Carbonneau, president of the CSN, reaffirmed the federation's ongoing commitment to the struggle.

On January 24 last year, the company locked the workers out in an attempt to force them to accept a new contract with deep concessions. Two days later, workers voted to reject the company's final offer by 99 percent.

Quebecor Media bosses have made 230 demands, including eliminating almost 75 jobs, lengthening the workweek by 25 percent without compensation, cutting wages of some workers, and reducing benefits by 20 percent.

Over the past year, workers have maintained their picket lines and established their own online newspaper, RueFrontenac.com.

Union officials say Quebecor has refused to negotiate. It produces a scab version of the daily *Journal de Montréal* mainly based on news agencies like Reuters or Canadian Press. It continues to have a large distribution because it gives many issues away free.

New center celebrates Black rights struggle

BY JANE ROLAND
AND JOAN PALTRINERI

GREENSBORO, North Carolina, February 1—"You don't ask permission to make a revolution," said Franklin McCain, addressing several hundred people here who gathered in sub-freezing temperatures at today's opening of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum. Fifty years ago to the day McCain and three other 17-year-old freshmen from the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical College (A&T) sat down at the F.W. Woolworth's "whites only" lunch counter demanding to be served. The Woolworth's store, which closed years ago, is the site of the new museum.

Later in the day more than 1,000 people, mostly students from area campuses, marched from A&T to the new museum, along the route the four students took 50 years ago. At Bennett College in Greensboro, one of two historically Black women's colleges in the United States, alumnae who had helped organize the sit-ins recounted how they had met with students from A&T and meticulously planned the action months in advance.

Lorraine Stanback and her second cousin Mia Ingram drove nine hours from New Jersey to join the celebration in their hometown. Stanback marched with a handmade sign that said, "The Will to Sit Down 4 Equality."

Speakers at the opening included U.S. senator Kay Hagen; Gov. Beverly Purdue; Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez, representing the Obama administration; and Rev. Jesse Jackson. But it was McCain who got the biggest response.

McCain spoke for the "Greensboro Four"—himself, Jibreel Khazan (formerly Ezell Blair Jr.), and Joseph McNeil, who both attended the opening, and the late David Richmond. McCain said some things have changed for Blacks and many things have stayed the same. More Blacks are in school but more are also in prison. "Take pride. Take joy. But more than anything else, take charge," he added.

The sit-ins that began here in 1960 sparked a national movement that spread to 55 cities in 13 states and helped lead to the desegregation of lunch counters and other public facilities. In Greensboro the sit-ins continued, with both Black and white students joining the protests, until July 1960 when the store was forced to desegregate the lunch counter.



AP Phtoto/News & Record, Lynn Hey

February 1 march retracing route Greensboro Four walked to F.W. Woolworth's 50 years ago to begin sit-in movement against segregation at Greensboro, North Carolina, lunch counter.

Exhibits at the new museum include a "Hall of Shame," which documents lynchings and Jim Crow segregation, including "Whites only" and "Colored only" signs and a double-sided Coke machine—one side to be used by whites and the other side by Blacks.

But mainly the museum's displays are testimony to the steadfast fight that Blacks waged for their rights, with exhibits of protesters standing up to attacks by police dogs in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963 and other mileposts in the civil rights movement. Mug shots show the faces of more than 1,200 protesters arrested throughout the South and the first Black students to integrate public schools.

The lunch counter stools where the sit-ins took place are a highlight of the museum, still in their original spot. Other artifacts include a Ku Klux Klan robe, footage of the National Guard escorting a Black student into a previously all-white school, and many others that record the story of the fight in the 1960s to end Jim Crow segregation.

Police killing of youth protested in Montreal

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—About 70 mostly young people demonstrated at the provincial courthouse February 3 calling for justice for Fredy Villanueva, an 18-year-old of Honduran origin, killed by a cop Aug. 9, 2008.

The action took place the day Constable Jean-Loup Lapointe, the officer who shot Villanueva, was testifying at a months-long coroner's inquest into the killing. Lapointe was never charged.

Through demonstrations and other public activity the Villanueva family and supporters forced the Quebec provincial government to call the inquest. Supporters of the Villanueva family packed the courtroom to hear Lapointe's testimony.

Demonstrators chanted "Lapointe, murderer" at the action, organized by the Coalition contra la répression et les abus policiers (Coalition against police repression and abuse). Speakers from community organizations accused the police of "racial profiling" and getting "special treatment" from the government.

In the minutes before his death, Villanueva was playing dice with his brother Dany and friends when Lapointe and another cop tried to give Dany a ticket for violating a municipal bylaw banning "gambling" in public. Lapointe tried to handcuff Dany. In the ensuing scuffle Lapointe fired his gun four times, killing Fredy and wounding two others. Lapointe claims he feared for his life and fired in self-defense.

Dany Villanueva is scheduled to testify as a witness at the inquest in the coming days. In the meantime the Canada Border Services Agency is trying to deport him to Honduras on the grounds that Villanueva, who is not a citizen, pleaded guilty in 2005 to possessing a revolver and assaulting a teenager, for which he was sentenced to an 11-month jail term. The Immigration and Refugee Board has scheduled a March 11 hearing on the move to deport him.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

February 22, 1985

Tens of thousands of Dominican workers joined in a one-day general strike on February 11 to protest new austerity measures imposed by the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund.

The general strike capped two weeks of protests following the January 23 announcement by Pres. Salvador Jorge Blanco that the price of gasoline would be hiked 34 percent.

The new measures came on top of last April's hikes of up to 100 percent in the price of food, cooking oil, and other essential items. Last year's price increases sparked a massive rebellion in which government troops killed at least 60 people, wounded some 200, and arrested more than 4,000.

The Dominican government owes $2.7 billion to imperialist banks. This year it must pay $1.4 billion to be current.

The protests demand a break with the IMF, a cancellation of the Dominican Republic's debt repayment, and the lowering of prices.

THE MILITANT

February 22, 1960

A tide of youthful militancy in the struggle against Jim Crow is flooding the South. Begun by Negro college students in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Feb. 1, it has been surging on Southern campuses for three weeks and is now involving large numbers of Negro high school students.

The Greensboro action was planned by four freshmen at the Agricultural and Technical College, a state-supported Negro institution in that city. These four pioneers chose a nearby five-and-ten-cent store (F.W. Woolworth) heavily patronized by the 3,000-member student body as the first place to bring some justice.

The four student leaders entered the store and sat down at the lunch counter, which is "for whites only." When they were refused service, they continued to sit quietly at the counter till the store closed at 5:30 p.m. Next day they returned and were joined by 27 more students from A. and T. and from Bennett, a college for Negro women.

THE MILITANT

March 2, 1935

The strike of Drivers Local 173, Fargo, N.D., which has been on since Jan. 22, is still going strong despite the most diabolical legal trickery on the part of the bosses' "law and order" machinery.

Local 173 has developed some rather unusual weapons in the latest fight. On Monday every highway leading into Fargo was picketed with immense signs reading: "16 Fargo Strikers have been sentenced to 44 months. Don't trade in a scab town!"

To raise funds to continue its fight, Local 173 is sending a troupe of Union boxers and wrestlers to nearby communities, where performances will be given several nights this week.

The Special Strike Bulletin continues to appear on Fargo's streets despite Judge Paulson's whines that "Statements published in the strike bulletin . . . were in defiance of the court."

Militant members of the Farmers Union and Farmers Holiday Association are not only with the strike—they have assisted in spiriting strike leaders away from the police.

Malcolm X drawn to Cuban Revolution

The following is the fifth in a series of excerpts the Militant *is running from Pathfinder Press's latest book,* Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, *by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. We encourage our readers to buy, read, and discuss the book. This excerpt is from the chapter "Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class."*

What about the Cuban Revolution? Some of us know of the welcome Malcolm gave to Cuban prime minister Fidel Castro when Fidel came to New York in September 1960 to speak for the first time before the United Nations General Assembly. After numerous mid-Manhattan hotels often used by UN delegations either refused accommodations to the Cuban delegation, or sought to impose a degrading and costly "damage deposit" on them, Castro and his comrades moved uptown to Harlem and registered at the Hotel Theresa.

Malcolm X had helped arrange the move and organized a defense guard for the delegation at the Theresa. Thousands of Harlem residents and supporters of revolutionary Cuba from around New York gathered outside the hotel for days to celebrate this act of solidarity by a visiting head of state. "Premier Castro has come out against lynching, which is more than [U.S.] President Eisenhower has done," Malcolm told the New York press after meeting with the Cuban leader in his room. "Castro has also taken a more open stand for civil rights for Black Cubans."

Malcolm's welcome to the Cuban delegation in 1960 was genuine, but he was then still a prominent minister of the Nation of Islam and would not have made this very public move without Elijah Muhammad's agreement. The Nation had a stance of support for national liberation struggles in the colonial world and gave generally positive coverage in its press to the revolution in Cuba.

Over the next few years, however, as Malcolm increasingly strained against the Nation's rejection of militant political action, he was drawn more and more openly to the example of Cuba's ongoing *revolutionary* course. "The Cuban Revolution—that's a revolution," he told an audience predominantly of African Americans in November 1963, the month during which he was later silenced by Elijah Muhammad. "They overturned the system. Revolution is in Asia, revolution is in Africa, and the white man is screaming because he sees revolution in Latin America. How do you think he'll react to you when you learn what a real revolution is?"

Malcolm's attraction to revolutionary Cuba continued to grow following his break with the Nation. In his speeches and interviews, he often pointed to the Cuban Revolution, along with those in China and Algeria, as an example of what needed to be done in the United States.

In December 1964, when Cuban leader Ernesto Che Guevara came to New York to address the UN, Malcolm invited him to come to the Audubon Ballroom to speak to a meeting of the OAAU [Organization of Afro-American Unity]. Che initially accepted the invitation but later concluded, as he wrote in a message that Malcolm read to the audience, that security "conditions are not good for [my participation in] this meeting." And Che added: "Receive the warm salutations of the Cuban people and especially those of Fidel, who remembers enthusiastically his visit to Harlem a few years ago. United we will win."



Bohemia

Malcolm X and Fidel Castro September 1960 at Hotel Theresa, Harlem, New York. Malcolm and thousands of Harlem residents welcomed Cuban delegation to UN General Assembly.

"I love a revolutionary," Malcolm told the audience at the Audubon that night, as he prepared to read Che's note. "And one of the most revolutionary men in this country right now was going to come out here . . . but he thought better of it." Malcolm cautioned participants never to let anyone choose their friends for them. "I don't," Malcolm said. "And you shouldn't. . . . You and I should practice the habit of weighing people and weighing situations and weighing groups and weighing governments for ourselves.". . .

Cuba's internationalism

Che had spoken before the United Nations two days earlier. In that speech he had championed one of the anti-imperialist struggles Malcolm felt very deeply about: the liberation struggle in the Congo. In June 1960, after nearly a century of incredibly bloody and exploitative Belgian rule, the Congolese people had won their independence and established a government led by Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, the central leader of the freedom struggle.

Washington and Brussels immediately organized to destroy the Lumumba government and replace it with a regime they were confident would protect imperialism's vast copper and other mineral holdings. Under United Nations cover, they engineered a coup against Lumumba in September 1960 and his brutal murder in January 1961. Over the next few years the U.S. and Belgian governments aided the new Congolese regime in combating anti-imperialist rebel forces organized by Lumumba supporters. . . .

Those murderous attacks reached a crescendo in November 1964, just prior to Che's speech at the UN. Che pointed out to the General Assembly—and above all, from that podium, to the working people of the world—that Washington and other imperialist powers had "used the name of the United Nations to commit the murder of Lumumba" and of thousands of Congolese villagers. "All free men of the world must be prepared to avenge the crime of the Congo," he said.

Che and the entire Cuban leadership intended *to act* on that call. It wasn't a bluff—they *never* bluff. In fact, Che left straight from New York in mid-December for a three-month tour of Africa, during which he met with leaders of the Lumumba forces, of governments on the continent who supported the Congolese anti-imperialist rebels, and of national liberation movements in Angola and other countries then still under the boot of Portuguese colonial rule. . . .

By mid-1965 the imperialist press was chattering about Che's "disappearance," spreading their standard lie (and wish) that there had been a split in the revolutionary leadership in Cuba and that Che had been jailed or even executed. Alas, their hope was not to be realized. In fact, between April and December 1965 Che was in the Congo, leading a column of Cuban internationalist volunteers who helped arm and train the pro-Lumumba forces. After a brief return to Cuba for additional training and preparations, Che in late 1966 left for Bolivia, where he was killed in combat the following October fighting alongside Bolivian, Cuban, and other Latin American combatants to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship there.

Given what Malcolm had come to know and politically admire about Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and the Cuban Revolution, none of this would have come as a surprise to him if he had lived to see it. Nor would Malcolm have been surprised that a decade later Cuba—in response to an appeal by the newly independent Angolan government—sent 36,000 internationalist volunteers beginning in November 1975 to assist the Angolans in turning back an invasion by South Africa's apartheid regime.

How Washington keeps Haiti undeveloped

Debt payments, unequal trade, low pay maintain exploitation of working class

(Second of two parts)

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In an op-ed column in the February 6 *Wall Street Journal* titled "Haiti and the Voodoo Curse," the official once in charge of U.S. "aid" to Haiti wrote: "Haiti's predicament is caused by a set of values, beliefs and attitudes rooted in African culture and the slavery experience that resist progress."

"Haiti's culture is powerfully influenced by its religion" and is "without ethical content," claimed Lawrence Harrison. He was head of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Haiti from 1977 to 1979 during the bloody regime of François Duvalier.

It has been 24 years since the Duvalier family was driven out of Haiti by an uprising of workers and peasants. A review of those years demonstrates that the curse working people of that country confront is not their culture (or their oppression, for that matter) but the culture of class exploitation that drives imperialist powers and their backers in Haiti, those Harrison speaks for.

The Duvalier family belonged to the tiny oligarchy in Haiti—1 percent of the population—that skimmed off 40 percent of the national income.

Large landowners controlled 66 percent of the arable land. Most working people lived in the countryside where they tilled tiny plots of land. Some worked seasonally as cane cutters across the border in the Dominican Republic, under a program where the Duvaliers collected a fee for each Haitian sent to the harvest there.

Deforestation of country

Facing extreme poverty, Haitian farmers resorted to cutting down trees to provide fuel and to sell as charcoal. The country has only 1 percent tree cover today, making it particularly vulnerable to floods.

Attracted by the antiunion stance of Duvalier and his refusal to enforce such basic labor standards as overtime pay and limits on working hours, some 250 U.S. businesses flocked to Haiti to set up assembly factories producing baseballs, garments, and electronics. They got away with paying the workers at best $3 a day.

Meanwhile, the government amassed a huge debt. From 1957 to 1986, Haiti's foreign debt actually multiplied by a factor of 17.5, reaching $750 million. The personal wealth of the Duvalier family, by comparison, was $900 million.

To make its debt payments, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) insisted that Haiti carry out more and more austerity measures that cut deeply into the few social programs available to working people. From 1982 to 1984, Jean-Claude Duvalier, son of François, cut government spending by 25 percent.

These intolerable conditions could only be maintained through brutal force. The elder Duvalier had established his own private paramilitary force, the 15,000-strong Tontons Macoutes. Opponents of any stripe—from prounion workers to rival bourgeois politicians to dissident Catholic priests—were routinely arrested and tortured. Some were forced into exile, others killed.

Immediately after the fall of the younger Duvalier in 1986, workers and peasants began organizing unions, peasants' associations, and demanded free elections. Neither Washington nor the Haitian ruling class was willing to grant that. For the next four years a succession of military-controlled governments backed by Washington tried to impose stability.

In the course of those years, a new theft of Haiti's resources took place. The IMF offered the Haitian government a loan of $24.6 million—if it agreed to lower tariffs on imported agricultural produce. Within two years so much cheap rice from the United States (some of it in the form of "food aid") had flooded Haiti that local peasants could no longer make a living growing the staple. Domestic sugarcane production was undermined in a similar fashion.

The failure of the U.S.-backed juntas to resolve any of the problems facing Haiti led to new clashes with the masses of working people, who had gained self-confidence with the overthrow of Duvalier. They pressed for their demands, despite continued repression by the armed forces and Tontons Macoutes that were still active. In the 1990 presidential elections eighty-five percent of the population turned out for the vote and elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide by 67 percent.

Aristide had been a Catholic priest in a working-class district of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, who emerged as one of the most prominent critics of Duvalier and his mentors in Washington. Given the lack of a revolutionary party in the country with a perspective of bringing workers and peasants to power, many working people looked to Aristide for leadership in the fight to forge a new Haiti.

Upon taking office, Aristide pledged to purge the military of Tontons Macoutes. He jailed some of them, along with other corrupt figures from the previous regimes. He began some efforts to cope with the economic devastation facing the country. But Aristide believed he could carry these efforts out with the cooperation of Washington and imperialist financial institutions.

The Haitian ruling class and its military, along with Washington, worked to undermine the Aristide regime, which they saw as deepening the expectations of working people. After seven months in power, Aristide was overthrown by a coup and forced into exile.



Work resumes at Baker's World Wide Apparel, which produces uniforms for North America, after January 12 earthquake. Company pays about $5–$6 a day.

U.S. troops restore, exile Aristide

Over the next three years, a succession of unstable military governments attempted to rule Haiti. Clashes continued with Aristide's supporters in the working class and peasantry. In 1994 the U.S. government concluded it was better off sending Aristide back to Haiti to bring the masses under control. He returned in October of that year on a U.S. government jet, backed by 20,000 U.S. troops.

In his first national speech Aristide urged Haitians to take no reprisals against the police and paramilitary thugs who had terrorized them for three years. "No to violence, no to vengeance, yes to reconciliation," he said.

He pledged to appoint "some key ministers coming from the wealthy." One of the first appointments was businessman Smarck Michel as prime minister. A favorite of Washington and the World Bank, Michel had quit the first Aristide cabinet to protest the president's lowering of food prices.

USAID organized financial "aid" for the new government, including $32 million for the police force and $25 million to make sure Haiti paid its debt to imperialist bankers.

After completing his term, Aristide stepped aside and his prime minister, René Préval, was elected president. But Aristide ran for president again in 2000 and won reelection. This time he adopted more economic measures demanded by Washington, such as lowering tariffs on goods imported from the United States and privatization of some state-owned companies. Washington, meanwhile, cut off loans.

By 2004 rightist forces were again threatening to depose Aristide as the country sank into deeper and deeper economic crisis. He accepted a "peace plan" crafted by Washington to allow the deployment of imperialist troops in Haiti so he could finish his term. On February 29 Washington placed an "interim" regime of Aristide's opponents in power and U.S. armed forces flew the deposed president to the Central African Republic against his will.

Medical brigades from Cuba

Continued from front page

surgeries, according to the Cuban daily *Granma*.

Dr. Carlos Alberto García, a leader of the Cuban health mission in Haiti, said that many personnel from other countries "have returned home, considering the emergency over. But to us the emergency continues." Now it is not so much surgery Haitians need, but treatment for infections, malaria, parasites, and typhoid. The goal is to rebuild Haiti's public health system, "to provide comprehensive care over the long term," he told Gail Reed, international director of MEDICC, a U.S.-based group that promotes medical cooperation with Cuba.

"The Henry Reeve Emergency Medical Contingent—as the Cuban-led teams are known, named after a U.S. veteran of Cuba's independence war against Spain—is now working in three hospitals, four field hospitals, five Comprehensive Diagnostic Centers (clinics), and numerous open-air sites in Port-au-Prince and throughout Haiti," Reed reported.

More Cuban volunteers have arrived to vaccinate Haitians, provide psychological and physical therapy, and fumigate. Cuban teachers are offering classes for children in a tent city set up by the governments of Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, and other countries that are part of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America. The encampment shelters 700 people and provides food and medicine.

Elsie Walter, one of the U.S. medical graduates, told *Granma Internacional* that they "felt the need to be here. We're leaving aside our studies" to do so. She expects more Cuban-trained students to come later, "because we know the Cuban medical brigade is going to be here for a good long time."

Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine initially opened to offer full, six-year scholarships to students from Latin America on the condition that they return to their countries upon graduation to practice medicine. Some 530 Haitian youth have graduated from the school, and many are currently working with Cuban doctors in Haiti.

The historic roots of Jew-hatred: A Marxist view

Printed below is an excerpt from The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation *by Abram Leon, a leader of the communist movement in Nazi-occupied Belgium in the early 1940s. In a scientific study of Jewish history from the Roman era to World War II, Leon traces the historical rationalizations of anti-Semitism to the fact that Jews—in the centuries preceding the domination of industrial capitalism—were forced to become a "people-class" of merchants and moneylenders. He explains how in times of social crisis renewed Jew-hatred is incited by the capitalists to mobilize reactionary forces against the labor movement and disorient the middle classes and layers of working people about the true source of their impoverishment. In 1944, at the age of 26, Leon was arrested by Nazi police and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp where he was executed in the gas chambers. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ABRAM LEON

The Jews lived within the pores of feudal society. When the feudal structure started to crumble, it began expelling elements which were, at one and the same time, foreign to it and indispensable to it. Even before the peasant had left the village for the industrial center, the Jew had abandoned the small medieval town in order to emigrate to the great cities of the world. The destruction of the secular function of Judaism within feudal society is accompanied by its passive penetration into capitalist society.



Storm troopers taking Jewish women and children away during Nazi destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, Poland, in 1943. "Capitalism has not only doomed the social function of the Jews," writes Leon, "it has also doomed the Jews themselves."

But if capitalism has given humanity certain tremendous conquests, only its disappearance can allow humanity to enjoy them. Only socialism will be able to lift humanity to the level of the material bases of civilization. But capitalism survives and all the enormous acquisitions turn more and more against the most elementary interests of humanity.

The progress of technology and science has become the progress of the science of death and its technology. The development of the means of production is nothing but the growth of the means of destruction. The world, become too small for the productive apparatus built up by capitalism, is constricted even further by the desperate efforts of each imperialism to extend its sphere of influence. While unbridled export constitutes an inseparable phenomenon of the capitalist mode of production, decaying capitalism tries to get along without it, that is to say, it adds to its disorders the disorder of its own suppression.

Powerful barriers impede the free circulation of merchandise and men. Insurmountable obstacles arise before the masses deprived of work and bread following the breakdown of the traditional feudal world. The decay of capitalism has not only accelerated the decomposition of feudal society but has multiplied a hundredfold the sufferings which resulted from it. The bearers of civilization, in a blind alley, bar the road to those who wish to become civilized. Unable to attain civilization, the latter are still less able to remain in the stage of barbarism. To the peoples whose traditional bases of existence it has destroyed, capitalism bars the road of the future after having closed the road of the past.

It is with these general phenomena that the Jewish tragedy of the twentieth century is tied up. The highly tragic situation of Judaism in our epoch is explained by the extreme precariousness of its social and economic position. The first to be eliminated by decaying feudalism, the Jews were also the first to be rejected by the convulsions of dying capitalism. The Jewish masses find themselves wedged between the anvil of decaying feudalism and the hammer of rotting capitalism.

* * *

Capitalism destroyed feudal society, and with it the function of the Jewish people-class. History doomed this people-class to disappearance; and thus the Jewish problem arose. The Jewish problem is the problem of adapting Judaism to modern society, of liquidating the heritage bequeathed to humanity by feudalism.

For centuries Judaism was a social organism within which social and national elements were closely intermingled. The Jews are far from constituting a race; on the contrary, they are probably one of the most typical and conspicuous examples of racial mixture. This does not mean, however, that the Asiatic element is not very noticeable in the mixture—sufficiently outstanding, in any case, to set the Jew apart in the Western nations, where he is chiefly to be found. This real national "base" is supplemented by an imaginary, poetic base, formed out of the secular tradition which attaches the present Jew to his distant "ancestors" of biblical times. On this national base, the class foundation and the mercantile psychology were subsequently grafted. The national and social elements became mixed to the point of complete intermingling. It would be difficult to distinguish in a Polish Jew the part that his "type" has inherited from his ancestors and the part acquired from the social function that he fulfilled in that country for centuries. It must be agreed that the social base long ago acquired greater importance than the national base. At any rate, if the social element came to be added to the national element, the latter could persist only thanks to the former. It is thanks to his social and economic situation that the Jew was able to "preserve" himself.

Capitalism has posed the Jewish problem, that is to say, it has destroyed the social bases upon which Judaism maintained itself for centuries. But capitalism has not resolved the Jewish problem, for it has been unable to absorb the Jew liberated from his social shell. The decline of capitalism has suspended the Jews between heaven and earth. The Jewish "precapitalist" merchant has largely disappeared, but his son has found no place in modern production. The social basis of Judaism has crumbled; Judaism has become largely a declassed element. Capitalism has not only doomed the social function of the Jews; it has also doomed the Jews themselves.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2826 S. Vermont Ave. #9. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 737-2191. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 719 NE 79th St. Zip: 33138. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381063 Zip: 33238-1063. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 465 Boulevard SE Suite 105A. Zip: 30312. Tel: (404) 627-3704. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwestoffice.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: cllc_can@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-2466. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cledinburgh@talktalk.net

EDITORIAL

U.S., allies out of Afghanistan!

Some 15,000 U.S., British, and Afghan troops are now arrayed against an estimated 400 to 1,000 Taliban in Marjah in southern Afghanistan. Washington hopes the Taliban will just pack up and leave in the face of overwhelmingly superior force, and that the offensive will succeed without too much politically embarrassing "collateral damage"—that is, Afghan working people getting killed.

Washington's strategy includes assassinating some Taliban leaders while offering to "reintegrate" others and beefing up the Afghan army so it can carry the brunt of the fighting.

It is also stepping up its war in Pakistan, increasing attacks from pilotless planes guided from bases in the United States. They rain death and destruction from 10,000 feet above, avoiding loss of "American" lives.

The ongoing U.S.-led war in the region, which has lasted longer than the U.S. involvement in World War II, continues to expand. Democratic and Republican parties alike support the war effort.

While increasing its wars abroad, the U.S. government is also preparing for "civil unrest" at home. That's part of the meaning of the Pentagon's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review. "Defend the United States and support civil authorities at home" was placed at the top of U.S. military priorities.

The U.S. ruling class knows that resistance will rise as they continue to take out their capitalist economic crisis on the backs of working people at home and abroad. And it will become clearer to working people in imperialist countries that their interests lie not with the capitalist war makers, but with toilers worldwide.

Working people need to demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops, and their allied forces, from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and everywhere else they are deployed.

Long-term joblessness at record high

Continued from front page

slashing 13,000 jobs and Home Depot is planning to lay off 1,000 workers.

The official unemployment rate for African Americans, which has been steadily rising over the past year, is now 16.5 percent, up from 12.8 percent a year ago. For Latinos, 12.6 percent are unemployed, and for teenagers, 26.4 percent.

With 14.8 million workers officially unemployed last month and an additional 2.5 million workers not counted because they are "marginally attached" to the workforce, few workers would read the government report as encouraging.

"It's no wonder unemployed workers are getting discouraged," stated CNNMoney. "It's never taken longer to find a new job." The number of long-term unemployed—those without jobs for 27 weeks or more—was 6.3 million in January, setting a new record for the 10th month in a row.

Payments could be halted next month for as many as 1.2 million workers receiving unemployment insurance checks unless Congress passes legislation extending benefit payments.

While the bosses hold off on hiring, those with jobs are being forced to work harder through increased speedup, inevitably causing more injuries. "During the past two quarters productivity expanded at an astounding pace of close to 8 percent annualized," Moody's chief economist Mark Zandi told *Daily Finance*. "This is the strongest two-quarter gain on record outside of a period in the early 1960s."

For the fourth quarter of 2009, "productivity" rose at a 6.2 percent annual rate with output rising by 7.2 percent and work hours increasing an average of 1 percent. The productivity increase was even higher in manufacturing at 7.8 percent. During this time, real wages fell by nearly 2 percent, according to MarketWatch.com.

The Barack Obama administration is promising to offer a $5,000 tax credit to small businesses for each worker they hire. But the National Federation of Independent Business reported last month that more small employers nationwide are expecting to cut jobs rather than hire over the next three months.

Washington prepares new offensive

Continued from front page

back and forth," Shir Ali Khan told Agence France-Presse, after fleeing to Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand, with 25 relatives. "There are still lots of people left who can't leave, who have nowhere to go," he said.

In a December offensive that helped pave the way for the operation against Marjah, 1,000 U.S. marines with British and Afghan support took over Now Zad in Helmand with little resistance from Taliban insurgents. Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, a British commander, told the *Daily Telegraph* of London that 15,000 troops are joining the assault on Marjah.

A large number of U.S. marines bolstered the U.S. war in Helmand over the last year. Another 9,000 are expected as part of the 30,000 additional troops for Afghanistan ordered by President Obama in December.

Operations in Pakistan

While extending its control in formerly Taliban areas in Afghanistan, Washington is also stepping up its operations in Pakistan.

The Internet-based Long War Journal says there were 36 U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan in 2008, 53 in 2009, and 11 in just the first month of 2010. A central leader of the Pakistani Taliban, reportedly died of injuries inflicted from a drone attack in January.

In one sign of deepening U.S. involvement in Pakistan, three U.S. troops were killed by a car bomb while traveling with a Pakistan military convoy February 3. The three were part of a special forces group of 80 training Pakistani Frontier Corps paramilitaries.

In a February 7 column, *Washington Post* assistant editor David Ignatius wrote, "The key to Kabul lies in Islamabad, Adm. Mike Mullen likes to say, meaning that success in Afghanistan will be impossible without Pakistan's help." But, Ignatius adds, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also knows "the key to Islamabad lies in the Indian capital of New Delhi."

Washington is pushing for the Pakistani and Indian governments to come to an agreement to calm their decades-long disputes. Some 100,000 Pakistani troops have been moved from the border with India and used in offensives against Taliban forces in Swat and South Waziristan. The Indian government says it has removed 30,000 troops from the border.

During a NATO conference in Istanbul, U.S. general Stanley McChrystal told reporters, "I think we made significant progress in setting conditions in 2009," a departure from previous assessments that the situation in Afghanistan was "deteriorating."

Washington is still having difficulty keeping its erstwhile allies on board. Japanese naval vessels returned home from the Indian Ocean February 6, ending their eight-year refueling mission of coalition ships.

And some NATO members, instead of sending more troops to bolster the U.S. war as Washington has asked, are shifting soldiers from combat positions to training Afghan forces.

In previous offensives, Taliban fighters returned after U.S. and coalition troops left. With the increase in U.S. troops, Washington is planning to hold on to the areas they occupy.

Good photos liven up revolutionary journalism

The *Militant* counts on its readers and worker correspondents to contribute to publishing a lively and accurate working-class newspaper. One of the ways we accomplish that is through pictures.

High quality photos can truly be worth 1,000 words. When sending in an article, it is always good to think about what kind of picture would help illustrate it.

Here are a few suggested guidelines for those sending in photographs for the *Militant*:

Make sure they are in focus. This may seem elementary, but it takes practice. Get enough lighting. Most times you will need a flash for indoor or night-time photos. Take photos from a variety of angles and send in the best ones.

For demonstrations, a large crowd shot is useful, but sometimes a better news photo is one that gets in closer and shows signs, banners, and expressions on people's faces.

If you take close-up shots of individuals, ask the person for their name and how it is spelled.

Besides photos of demonstrations, protests, picket lines, strikes, and other political events, the *Militant* is always looking for shots that show distribution of the paper and Pathfinder books.

Digital photographs must be of high enough resolution for print quality, so set your camera to a high-resolution setting. The preferred file format is JPEG. A quality JPEG file will be at least one megabyte in size. Cell phone pictures are not usable.

Do not manipulate photos. *Militant* editorial volunteers are trained in adjusting photos to meet our printing specifications.

Make sure you send in all the necessary information. This includes: date and location, a brief caption saying what the photo shows, and names of individuals in the photo, especially of speakers or panels. Also specify who the photo should be credited to, for example: Militant/Jane Doe.

—Paul Mailhot

Black farmers

Continued from front page

preferential treatment on future loan applications. However, 86 percent of the 94,000 Black farmers who filed claims were turned down, overwhelmingly due to stringent deadlines imposed by the government without adequate notice.

In 2008 up to $100 million was included as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to compensate those farmers who missed the deadline. Although the money has been included in two federal budgets it has yet to be approved in a spending authorization bill. Divided among the tens of thousands of potentially eligible farmers, this equals a paltry amount of less than $2,000 each.

Since May 2009, President Obama has requested $1.15 billion in the federal budget to compensate Black farmers, but no serious effort has been made to gain Congress's approval of the funds.

"We want to be more visible and urge farmers who haven't been to Washington to press the issue," explained John Boyd, president of the NBFA in a phone interview with the *Militant*. "We're going back out in the streets and let the public and the media help try the case," he said.

"The situation for Black farmers hasn't gotten any better," Robert Binion, 60, of Clanton, Alabama, said in a separate phone interview. "We're still fighting the same fight. Black farmers are still being denied loans, while other farmers get them."

Binion, a small peach farmer, has been working to build support for the February 10 farmers' rally at the Alabama capitol in Montgomery. A longtime leader of the NAACP in Chilton County, Binion has been holding meetings with Black farmers in Alabama over the last year to discuss how to advance their fight against the USDA.

For more information, contact the NBFA at (800) 891-1148 or visit blackfarmers.org.

Susan LaMont contributed to this article.